30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

634
133
361 to 165 ft. at its highest point; except for a little grazing it is barren. *Nābiyu Tunb*, 8 miles to the W. of Tunb, with an area of 1 mile by ¾ mile, is uninhabited and without water.

[632] The town of **Ras el-Kheimah**, consisting of about 1,000 houses and
361 forming the administrative centre of the district, is on the Gulf Coast,
621 about 48 miles N. of Shārjah town. Sheikh Sālim ibn Sultān claims
438 to be independent of Shārjah, but his independence has not yet been recognized. The town stands upon a narrow spit of land 2½ miles long, running parallel to the coast and connected with the mainland at the SW. end; the creek between the spit and the shore, though its entrance at low tide is only 2 ft. deep, has a general depth of 9 ft., and forms a good anchorage for native boats; large vessels must anchor 2½ miles to 3 miles NW. of the town.

About half of the houses are of stone and gypsum mortar, the remainder of date-branches. There is an old fort of no military value, and a ruinous wall crosses the isthmus SW. of the town. The inhabitants are a mixed race known as Ahl Ras el-Kheimah, occupying 400 houses, Mahārah (250 houses), Āl 'Ali (150 houses), and Āl Bu Maheir (120 houses), with a few Na'īm, Baluchis, and Khōjahs. Drinking-water is scanty and of poor quality. The town possesses about 16,000 date-palms, while the large groves belonging to *Sīr* begin on the mainland opposite the town. The people own 33 pearl-boats and 15 other sea-going vessels, with about 120 fishing-boats; live stock includes some 800 goats, 150 cattle, 175 donkeys, 130 camels, and 20 horses. Trade resembles that of other ports on the Trucial Coast; the chief manufacture is of daggers. At Mahārah, the site of an old village on the E. side of the creek, there is usually a temporary colony, sometimes of Persians from Rams. The chief villages, of 100 houses and above, are as follows:——

In Ras el-Kheimah district:

1. *Rams*: 400 houses, mostly of mud and stone, on the coast about 8 miles NE. of Ras el-Kheimah town, on the S. side of a small creek with shallow entrance. The inhabitants are Taneij, chiefly pearl-divers and fishermen, but owning date plantations partly situated at *Dhāyah*, a place now uninhabited, 2 miles inland. Live-stock includes 500 goats, 50 donkeys, 20 camels, 20 head of cattle.

2. *Sha'am*: about 300 houses, mostly of mud, on the coast 17 miles NNE. of Ras el-Kheimah town and 2 miles S. of Ras Sha'am. Inhabitants are all Shihūh, occupied with pearl-diving, fishing, and cultivation, and owning a few pearl-boats and coasting vessels, with 7,000 date-palms. Live stock: 50 donkeys, 30 camels, 20 head of cattle. About 1 mile S. is a small tower upon a hillock used for defence.